FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

CHAPTER V.—DEPARTMENTS OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

(i) Food Supplies.

505. The Articles of Food Acquisition (Harvest) Order, 1949, promulgated in November 1949 continued to be in force during the year with the amendment as under:—

506. Clause 17 of the Order dealing with movement of foodgrains was amended according to which foodgrains (i) not exceeding ten seers in all could be transported without permit from one non-rationed area to another non-rationed area within the State by a *bona fide* traveller as part of his luggage for his personal or family consumption; (ii) not exceeding two seers per adult and half of it per child for *bona fide* consumption from one rationed area to another rationed or non-rationed area and *vice versa*; and (iii) under Military Credit Notes or Certificates issued by appropriate military authority to a person of the Armed Force of the Union on leave.

507. In December 1951, the variety of jola known as Vegaru or kaki jola was exempted from the purview of the Harvest Order.

508. The following quantities of foodgrains were procured during the year:—

Paddy ...	...	17,83,262	pallas
Ragi ...	...	3,10,184	,,
Jola ...	...	24,549	,,
Wheat ...	...	14	,,
Other grains ...	...	13,167	,
	Total ...	21,22,176	

509. The basic plan for 1951 which came into effect on 1st January 1951 continued till the end of December 1951 and the plan for 1952 was operative for three months from January to end of March 1952. Against the State's estimated deficit of 1,37,000 tons of foodgrains for the year 1951, a ceiling quota of 1,25,000 tons was allotted to the State with indication to the State Government of the extent of supplies that would be made at the subsidised and the pool prices. According to this, the subsidised quota to the

State for the year 1951 was fixed at 70,000 tons of foodgrains consisting of 10,000 tons of rice, 20,000 tons of millets and 40,000 tons of wheat. But due to supply variations, the actual quantity supplied at subsidised rates during the year was as follows:—

Rice	...	3,100	tons
Wheat	...	44,600	,,
Milo	...	22,300	,,
Total	...	70,000	,,

510. A total of 1,15,539 tons of food grains was received during the year.

511. An important off-shoot of the Conference of Food Ministers held in February 1952 was an immediate decision by the Government of India to stop the subsidisation of foodgrains supplied to the States with effect from 1st March 1952; simultaneously, owing to several factors, such as, increase in the price of foodgrains in the supplying countries, increase in freight charges, etc., the pool prices of all foodgrains were also enhanced.

512. The following were the pool prices of imported foodgrains which prevailed from time to time:—

.....	From 1st January 1951 to 8th July 1951.	From 9th July 1951 to 1st March 1952.	From 1st March 1952.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rice Coarse	22 11 0	23 6 0	25 0 0
Fine	26 8 0	26 8 0	28 5 0
Superfine	...	...	46 8 0
Wheat	16 6 0	18 6 0	20 8 0
Wheat Flour...	21 0 0	23 0 0	27 0 0
Broken Rice	19 6 0	19 6 0	21 0 0
Milo	12 0 0	12 0 0	15 0 0

513. The Tenth Regional Food Conference presided over by the Director-General of Food, Government of India, was held in Madras in March 1952 at which Mysore was represented by the Director of Food Supplies,

514. Unlike in the previous year, the early rains during the year were good, but by the middle of July when the agricultural operations were in full swing and the maximum rainfall was required, the monsoon weakened and failed

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throughout August and the first two weeks of September 1951. The sudden failure of the monsoon at this crucial point caused a set-back in the agricultural operations, particularly in the area of dry cultivation. Later rains no doubt improved the conditions slightly, but were too late to be of much help to dry crops. These adverse results were reflected in the preliminary estimate of Kharif crops prepared towards the end of October 1951, which showed sharp decrease in the out turn of crops during the year as compared to the same in the previous years.

Scale of rations.

515. The scales of rations fixed were continued till 30th June 1951, but the composition was altered with effect from 1st April 1951 by raising the rice component by 0·5 ozs. in the case of "A" Class and Plantation labour and 0·6 ozs. in the case of the "B" class and heavy manual labour, cutting the scale of wheat and component of "A" class consumers and of millet component of the rest correspondingly.

516. To avoid the classification of consumers into 'A' and 'B' misconstrued as discriminating between the several classes of consumers in the State, these notations were replaced respectively by "R" (meaning rice eating) and "M" (meaning millet eating) and instructions were issued on 12th January 1952 to adopt the altered notations in the Departmental books, returns and correspondence.

Distribution of foodgrains.

517. Statutory rationing was continued in four Cities *viz.*, Bangalore including Civil Station, Mysore, Kolar Gold Fields and Davangere and informal rationing in the remaining areas. Distribution was also continued to be made through Government Depots, Co-operative Societies, etc., as in the previous years.

Supplies to Plantation Labour.

518. Supplies of foodgrains to planters for distribution amongst their labour were continued to be made as in the previous years on permits issued on Government Depots and nominated surplus holders in addition to permitting coffee planters to retain paddy grown on their lands up to six ozs. per head per day for the labour employed on each estate.

519. As in previous years, the Mysore State Railway, now called the Southern Railway (Mysore), continued to be an independent unit for the distribution of foodgrains to their employees and supplies were made on the basis of monthly bulk allotments, at the average pooled rates fixed

and revised from time to time consistent with the revision of pool prices for imported foodgrains.

Supplies to Military.

520. With the integration of the Mysore State Troops with the Indian Army effected from April 1951, the supplies which were being made on bulk allotments to the Mysore State Troops were confined to the released personnel and their families including civilian employees of the Mysore Forces who were not able to get their rations from the Indian Army Supply Crops and continued on the civilian scale of rations and at the rates charged to the general consumers.

521. This system was continued till 1st November 1951 from which date these personnel were issued civilian ration cards and supplied rations through the general consumers' depots.

522. The concessions granted to Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies, were continued for a further period of one year from 1st April 1951.

523. The issue prices of foodgrains sanctioned on 10th February 1952 continued to be in operation throughout the year.

524. The overall stock position of foodgrains at the end of the year showed an improvement over the same for the corresponding period of the previous year, the improvement being contributed mostly by wheat and to some extent by rice and also milo, due to improved supplies from imports and also to the better acquisition of paddy. The slightly low stock position of ragi was, however, due to the belated harvest as well as the adverse seasonal conditions during the season of cultivation.

Movement of foodgrains.

525. The inter-district movement of foodgrains was primarily confined to rice from the Districts of Shimoga, Mysore, Mandya, Hassan and Chikmagalur to the principal deficit areas, *viz.*, Bangalore, Mysore City, Kolar Gold Field and Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts. Ragi was moved in smaller quantities from all Districts except Mandya mainly to Bangalore, Mysore City and K.G.F. The movement was arranged as usual under monthly quotas fixed at the beginning of each month with reference to availabilities.

526. On the recommendations of the Honorary Adviser to the Ministry of Food made in connection with

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the improvements in the Rice Mills and in the milling methods for checking the loss of rice yield in the process of milling, an order called the Mysore Rice Mills Control Order 1952, was issued and the important feature of the order was that no owner of Rice Mill should hull or store paddy for hulling except under and in accordance with the conditions of a license issued under the order, that the owner should regulate number of revolutions so as not to exceed 450 per minute, that he should close the huller screen by a blind mild steel plate, if the mill is of huller type, that he should provide the mill with a paddy separator if it is not already provided and that he should provide his mill with adequate storage facilities.

527. The stock verification of paddy in Rice mills just before the harvest season disclosed large shortages in some of the mills and it was ordered that the shortage should be recovered at double the purchase rates fixed for paddy.

Foodgrains preservation.

528. The usual measures of preservation of pest control and sanitation, such as cleaning of the premises, brushing the stocks, spraying with pyrethrum extract pyrethrum flowers, fumigation of infested grain, dusting, etc., were conducted periodically in all the Government godowns and Emergency Depots in Bangalore City and in other places wherever found necessary.

529. The Godown Inspection Committees constituted for the periodical inspection of stocks in godowns in all District Headquarter Towns and Cities met periodically and were advising the Department on the condition of stock and the methods of improvement.

Rationing.

530. During the year, statutory rationing continued to be in force in Bangalore, Mysore, K.G.F. and Davangere.

531. Since the currency of the new ration cards issued in all the statutorily rationed areas during January 1951 expired by the end of June 1951, the same was in the first instance renewed by means of extension slips for a further period of six months. The occasion for the issue of extension slips was availed of to eliminate bogus cards to the extent possible.

532. The number of bogus cards detected, population involved and the quantities of foodgrains saved were 3,586, 16,597 and 1,531 pallas of cereals respectively.

533. Issues of foodgrains through Government Depots, Co-operative Societies and private retail depots were as in the previous year, continued in the statutorily rationed areas.

Price of bread.

534. With a view to make bread available at a reasonable price to consumers, the maximum price of bread was fixed in Bangalore from time to time.

Austerity Measures.

535. The Mysore Food (Restriction of Service of meals by catering establishments and others) Order of 1951 continued to be in force during the year.

536. With a view to popularise preparations made out of non-cereals, the Mysore Branch of the All-India Women's Food Council was permitted to run a Cafetaria at the Dasara Exhibition held during October 1951.

537. An *Ad-hoc* Committee was set up in March 1952, to examine and submit specific proposals to Government as to the steps necessary to restrict the use of natural milk in hotels and restaurants in the statutorily rationed areas to begin with, to ensure adequate supplies of milk powder etc., to hotels and such other measures that may be necessary in the opinion of the Committee to give effect to the intention of Government and also to examine the question of starting a Dairy on a co-operative or other basis by the Corporation of Bangalore more or less on the lines of the organisation now working in Bombay.

Sugar.

538. The sugar supply position remained satisfactory during the year. The production by the Mandya Sugar Factory being insufficient to meet the demands of the State, the deficit was made up through special allotments given by the Government of India from Northern Indian and Madras Sugar Factories.

539. Free movement of sugar from place to place in the State was allowed and restriction on the price, stocking for sale, or sale, of free market sugar was removed except that it was not to be sold through a ration shop or dealer appointed for the distribution of controlled sugar. With the advent of a free market in sugar, the restrictions on the movement of controlled sugar were lifted and no permit was necessary for movement to State other than the border States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Cutch, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.

Jaggery.

540. The jaggery position continued to be satisfactory during the year. As a result of the action taken at the close